

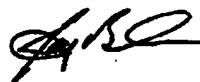
**REMARKS**

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.114, prosecution in the above-referenced patent application has been reopened through a Request for Continued Examination. Claims 7-12 and 14-17 are pending in the application. No claims are currently amended. Reconsideration of the patent application in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Applicant has chosen to reopen prosecution to allow Examiner to consider the documents cited in the accompanying Information Disclosure Statement and to amend the specification to make reference to a related application, serial number 09/738,799, and a related patent, US-6,628,865, both filed by Applicant on the same date as the present application. It is respectfully requested that the Examiner approve and enter these changes.

Applicant believes that all of the claims pending in this patent application are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of this patent application and early allowance of all the claims is respectfully requested. If the Examiner has any questions, she is invited to contact the undersigned at (703) 633-0927.

Respectfully submitted,



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Dated: 16 MAR, 04

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